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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/713,197	11/17/2003	Ji-Young Moon	Q77283	9563
23373 7590 02/06/2007 SUGHRUE MION, PLLC 2100 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, N.W. SUITE 800 WASHINGTON, DC 20037			EXAMINER GERGISO, TECHANE	
			ART UNIT 2137	PAPER NUMBER

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	02/06/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/713,197	MOON, JI-YOUNG
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Techane J. Gergiso <i>T-G</i>	2137

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on November 17, 2003.
 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-11 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1-11 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. This is a non -Final Office Action in response to the application filed on November 17, 2003.
2. Claims 1-11 have been examined.
3. Claims 1-11 are pending.

Claim Objections

4. Claim 1 is objected to because of the following informalities:

Claim 1 recites the limitation "*the separate masking operation*" in "*claim 1: lines 6-7.*"

The word "separate" renders the limitation ambiguous and the examiner suggests replacing "separate" with "plurality of" to provide clear antecedent. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

5. 35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

6. Claims 9 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter.

Claim 9 is directed to "a spatial masking method, comprising the steps of: adjusting contrast of a moving image frame; and extracting edges from the contrast-adjusted frame." This claimed subject matter lacks a practical application of judicial exception (law of nature, abstract

idea, naturally occurring article/phenomenon) since it fails to produce a useful, concrete and tangible result.

Specifically, the claimed subject matter does not produce a **useful result** because the **claimed subject matter fails to sufficiently reflect at least one practical utility** set forth in the descriptive portion of the specification. More specifically, while the described practical utility is directed to “*providing a watermarking method, which inserts a watermark into a moving image depending on a global masking method in which the characteristics of respective masking methods are combined together in consideration of HVS and the present invention selects a combination method expressed by G=F+S+M Equation so as to apply global masking, in which frequency, spatial and motion masking effects are taken into consideration together, to an image; where G, F, S and M represent a global masking value, a frequency masking value, a spatial masking value and a motion masking value, respectively (disclosure 0006 and 0039)*” the subject matter relates ONLY to, **adjusting contrast of a moving image frame; and extracting edges from the contrast-adjusted frame.**

In addition, the claimed subject matter does not produce a **tangible result** because the claimed subject matter fails to produce a result that is limited to having a real world value rather than a result that may be interpreted to be abstract in nature as, for example, a thought, a **computation, or manipulated data**. More specifically, **the claimed subject matter provides adjusting contrast of a moving image frame, and extracting edges from the contrast-adjusted frame**. This produced result remains in the abstract and, thus fails to achieve the required status of having real world value.

Claim 10 is directed to “a motion masking method, comprising the steps of: obtaining a luminance difference between a current frame and a previous frame; and extracting edges from the current frame.” This claimed subject matter lacks a practical application of judicial exception (law of nature, abstract idea, naturally occurring article/phenomenon) since it fails to produce a useful, concrete and tangible result.

Specifically, the claimed subject matter does not produce a **useful result** because the **claimed subject matter fails to sufficiently reflect at least one practical utility** set forth in the descriptive portion of the specification. More specifically, while the described practical utility is directed to “*providing a watermarking method, which inserts a watermark into a moving image depending on a global masking method in which the characteristics of respective masking methods are combined together in consideration of HVS and the present invention selects a combination method expressed by $G=F+S+M$ Equation so as to apply global masking, in which frequency, spatial and motion masking effects are taken into consideration together, to an image; where G, F, S and M represent a global masking value, a frequency masking value, a spatial masking value and a motion masking value, respectively (disclosure 0006 and 0039)*” the subject matter relates ONLY to, **obtaining a luminance difference between a current frame and a previous frame; and extracting edges from the current frame.**

Specifically, the claimed subject matter does not produce a tangible result because the claimed subject matter fails to produce a result that is limited to having a real world value rather than a result that may be interpreted to be abstract in nature as, for example,

a thought, a computation, or manipulated data. More specifically, the claimed subject matter provides obtaining a luminance difference between a current frame and a previous frame; and extracting edges from the current frame. This produced result remains in the abstract and, thus fails to achieve the required status of having real world value.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

7. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

8. Claims 9 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Simone et al. Simone et al. (hereinafter referred to as Simone, DIGITAL WATERMARKING APPLIED TO MPEG-2 CODED VIDEO SEQUENCES EXPLOITING SPACE AND FREQUENCY MASKING Simone Arena, Marcello Caramma, Rosa Lancini CEFRIEL Via Fucini 2, Milano, 1-20133, ITALY Tel. +39 02 23954-209, Fax. +39 02 23954-254{ arena,marcello,rosa}@cefriel.it).

As per claim 9:

Simone et al. disclose a spatial masking method, comprising the steps of: adjusting contrast of a moving image frame; and extracting edges from the contrast-adjusted frame (Abstract; Section 2.3: Exploitation of the HVS; Figure 2 and 3).

As per claim 10:

Simone et al. disclose motion masking method, comprising the steps of: obtaining a luminance difference between a current frame and a previous frame; and extracting edges from the current frame (Abstract; Section 2.3: Exploitation of the HVS; Figure 2 and 3).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

9. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

10. Claims 1 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ratnakar et al. (hereinafter referred to as Ratnakar, US Pub No.: 2003/0033529) in view of Tewfik et al. (hereinafter referred to as Tewfik, US Pat. No.: 6,061,793)

As per claims 1 and 11:

Ratnakar disclose a moving image watermarking method using a human visual system, and A computer readable medium including program codes executable by a computer to perform a moving image watermarking method using a human visual system, comprising:

- a) obtaining a watermark value by exclusive-ORing a random key value and a binary value of a logo image (0008; 0010; 0036; 0056)
- b) separately performing a plurality of masking operations (0054- 0056;

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- d) obtaining a watermarked frame value by adding a watermark value weighted by the global masking value and a control variable to an original frame value (0014; 0082; 0086); and
- e) inserting a watermark into a moving image frame using the watermarked frame value (Abstract; 0014; 0017, 0019, 0022);

Ratnakar does not explicitly teach c) obtaining a global masking value through the separate masking operations. Tewfik, in an analogous art teaches obtaining a global masking value through the separate masking operations (column 3: lines 56-67; column 4: lines 53; column 5: lines 54-67). Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the method disclosed by Ratnakar to include obtaining a global masking value through the separate masking operations. This modification would have been obvious because a person having ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated by the desire to provide hiding of data, including watermarks, in human-perceptible sounds, that is, audio host data and employ perceptual masking models to determine the optimal locations within host data to insert the hidden data or watermark as suggested by Tewfik in (column 2: lines 40-45).

11. Claims 2-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ratnakar et al. (hereinafter referred to as Ratnakar, US Pub No.: 2003/0033529) in view of Tewfik et al. (hereinafter referred to as Tewfik, US Pat. No.: 6,061,793), and further in view of Simone et al. (hereinafter referred to as Simone, DIGITAL WATERMARKING APPLIED TO MPEG-2

CODED VIDEO SEQUENCES EXPLOITING SPACE AND FREQUENCY MASKING

Simone Arena, Marcello Caramma, Rosa Lancini CEFRIEL Via Fucini 2, Milano, 1-20133, ITALY Tel. +39 02 23954-209, Fax. +39 02 23954-254{ arena,marcello,rosa} @cefriel.it)

As per claim 2:

Ratnakar and Tewfik do not explicitly teach the watermarking method comprising performing a spatial masking operation; and performing a motion masking operation. Simone, in an analogous art teach the watermarking method comprising performing a spatial masking operation; and performing a motion masking operation (Abstract; Section 2.3: Exploitation of the HVS; Figure 2 and 3). Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the method disclosed by Ratnakar and Tewfik to include the watermarking method comprising performing a spatial masking operation; and performing a motion masking operation. This modification would have been obvious because a person having ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated by the desire to provide a method to embed a certain amount of bits per frame in MPEG-2 coded video sequences, acting directly in a bit-stream domain as suggested by Simone in (page 438; Column 2: paragraph 1).

As per claim 3:

Simone discloses a watermarking method, wherein the step adjusting contrast of the moving image frame; and extracting edges from the contrast-adjusted frame (Abstract; Section 2.3: Exploitation of the HVS; Figure 2 and 3).

As per claim 4:

Simone discloses a watermarking method, obtaining a luminance difference between a current frame and a previous frame; and extracting edges from the current frame (Abstract; Section 2.3: Exploitation of the HVS; Figure 2 and 3).

As per claim 5:

Simone discloses a watermarking method, performing a frequency masking operation (Abstract; Section 2.3: Exploitation of the HVS; Figure 2 and 3).

As per claim 6:

Tewfik disclose a watermarking method, comprising:
comparing an image quality of the watermarked frame with an image quality set to a target (column 10: lines 12-25); and
decreasing a control variable by a predetermined value if the image quality of the watermarked frame is less than the target image quality, and increasing the control variable by a predetermined value if the image quality of the watermarked frame is greater than the target image quality (column 12: lines 30-50).

As per claim 7:

Tewfik discloses a watermarking method, wherein the image quality is estimated on the basis of Peak-Signal-to-Noise Ratio (PSNR) (column 5: line 35).

As per claim 8:

Ratnakar disclose a watermarking method extracting the watermark, comprising the steps of: subtracting the watermarked frame value from an original frame value to obtain a subtracted result value; and exclusive-ORing the subtracted result value and a random variable obtained by a key value, and obtaining an exclusive-ORed result (0008; 0010; 0036; 0056).

Conclusion

12. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

See the notice of reference cited in form PTO-892 for additional prior art

Contact Information

13. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Techane J. Gergiso whose telephone number is (571) 272-3784. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:00am - 6:00pm. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Emmanuel Moise can be reached on (571) 272-3865. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications

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may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

T-G

Techane Gergiso

Patent Examiner

Art Unit 2137

February 2, 2007

E. Moise
EMMANUEL L. MOISE
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER